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# A Heady but Misleading Account of the CIA

By Harry Rositzke  
Special to the Star-News

According to its author, "Without Cloak or Dagger" will set the record straight on CIA's remarkable success in its operations overseas, a "balanced and accurate" inside account to place against the dismal record of publicized failures and hostile exposes. It professes to offer "the truth about the new espionage," though author Miles Copeland has stated that he left the CIA more than 17 years ago.

It is a naive and unpersuasive performance.

What emerges is the writer's main bent, as a schoolmaster. Apparently an intelligence instructor in his early days, he refers frequently to training courses, curricula, and lectures. Like any good teacher, he likes tidy rules and numbered boxes.

THE MOST ludicrous example of the author's schematic approach is his model for "the ideal espionage operation." An agent is handled, through a cutout, by a principal agent who, through a cutout, transmits both instructions from and intelligence reports to a resident who in turn contacts his "case-officer" — five points of contact and possible exposure. Ideally, the case-officer handles only one agent, though elsewhere the author notes that the best case-officer is the busiest case-officer.

The author also has a flair for making flat statements that are wrong:

- About half the agents in the world have been recruited through their wives, and many agents are wives (this is a notion, Khrushchev tells us, shared by Stalin).
- Blackmail now plays a greater role in recruiting agents than it ever did before.
- Most spies do not know what espionage service they are working for.
- Espionage services use "intelligent, emotionally stable women for a wide variety of purposes, including the

## Books

**WITHOUT CLOAK OR DAGGER.** By Miles Copeland. Simon & Schuster. 351 pages. \$8.95.

seduction of prospective agents" (it is reassuring to hear that "the CIA is now out of the brothel business").

- Until the CIA developed modern methods (whatever they are), its spies were "universally unreliable."
- The British and Americans normally run operations into a country from an outside capital.

Copeland is a romantic at heart. He dresses up CIA officials with droll, non-existent nicknames in the best spy-fiction tradition: Mother, Kingfish, Jojo, Fisherman. He casually tosses around such hip phrases as "termination with extreme prejudice (i.e., liquidation)."

A FAVORITE phrase of Copeland's is "creative intelligence." What stands out in his account of CIA operations is his own creative imagination. After asserting in his preface that the CIA cannot be as ineffective as it appears to be — otherwise, there would be no CIA — he proceeds to garnish his tale with entirely mythical examples of its great prowess, especially in operating inside the Soviet Union: The CIA sends agents into a remote Siberian village to get data on its electric supply; It runs full-time Communist Party workers as principal agents with contacts throughout the Soviet Union; it covers vast areas of the USSR and China with agents sent in by air and across the border, etc. etc.

It is all very heady.

The author's cheerfully laudatory comments on CIA performance have led some observers to see his book as a CIA bult-up job. With friends like Copeland, the CIA has no need for the surfeit of enemies it now possesses.

Harry Rositzke is a former employee of the CIA.